**Open cast area of Mahanadi Coalfields in Orissa**

1093. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total open cast area of Mahanadi Coalfield in Orissa;

(b) whether MCL (Mahanadi Coals Limited) has taken up any plantation programme in the opencast areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) A total of 20137.70 ha. of land have been acquired by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. in the State of Orissa for opencast mining.

(b) and (c) Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. has taken massive afforestation (plantation) programme in opencast areas, details of which are given below:

(i) Plantation on overburden dumps and back-filled areas of opencast mines.

(ii) Plantation around mines and infrastructures, along road sides and vacant spaces.

Total plantation done on all above mentioned places since 1992-93 (inception of MCL) and upto 2000-01 is 34,66,970 numbers.

**Refusal by CIL to supply coal to Hirma Power Project, Orissa**

1094. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India has refused to supply coal to the authorities manning Hirma Power Project at the site in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to settle the issue in the interest of improving power scenerio in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to the part (a) above.